Extension of Corpus Funds Scheme for Petrol Outlets to Backward Classes

1977. SHRI R. MARGBANDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Corpus Fund Scheme, now available to SCs/STs for installation of petrol outlets, would be extended to backward classes; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Presently there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand and Supply of LPG

1978. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOY AL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply position of Liquified Petroleum Gas as at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the extent of satisfaction, indicating the production and import of additional LPG and reduction in the number of consumers on the waiting list per year; and

(b) what are the planned projects for augmentation of LPG supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of LPG production and imports during the years 1992-93 to 1996-97 (8th Plan Period) are as under:

Year	LPG Production (in TMT)	LPG Imports (in TMT)
1992-93	2572	328
1993-94	2699	410
1994-95	2858	592
1995-96*	3253	678
1996-97®	3208	1195

*Provisional
@ Revised OEB Estimates.

The year-wise details of new LPG connections released during the yeas 1992-93 1996-97 and the waiting list as at the beginning of these years are as under:

(Fig in Lakhs)

Year	New connections released	Waiting list
1992-93	8.7	88
1993-94	13.6	101
1994-95	22.9	114
1995-96	20.5	118
1996-97	20.0	136

'Target for release of new LPG connections.

The increasing popularity of LPG as a domestic cooking fuel and subsidised price has led to very high demand resulting in increase in waiting list despite releasing new LPG connections every year.

(b) LPG availability from refineries and gas fractionators is expected to increase from 3.253 MMT in 1995-96 to 6.873 by 2001-02. The above availability from indigenous sources is expected to accrue by commissioning of new sources and augmentation at some of the existing sources. With a view to augument the LPG imports in the country new LPG import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla have been commissioned with a capacity of 600 TMTPA each.

Gas Grid for Southern States

1979. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Gas Grid for the Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time schedule for completion of the project; and

(d) in what manner financing and participation of the Southern States in the Grid is proposed to be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Govemment has approved in principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid. The Southern States have competed a prefeasibility study for the project. The feasibility ot importing gas from Oman/Iran is under study. The Southern Gas Grid Porject can be taken up when sufficient gas is available. Efforts are also being made to import LNG for the Southern States.

(d) The financing pattern for the project will be decided after the availability of natural gas/LNG is known.

Oil Exploration by US Companies

1980. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some U.S. companies are being allowed to enter into exploration of oil in the country;

(b) whether some deep water drilling blocks are being offered to these compaines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the other international companies participating in the exploration of oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The names of U.S. compaines who have been awarded contract either on their own or as consortium partners for exploration of oil in the country are given below:—

(1) Okland International LDC, USA
(2) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA
(3) Rexwood Corp., USA
(4) Samson International Ltd., USA
(5) Opseis Geophysical system Inc., USA
(6) Enron Exploration Co., USA
(7) Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
(8) Occidential Internation Exploration & Production Co., USA
(9) Medallion Co., USA

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Names of other international companies who have been awarded contracts either on their own or consortiam partners are given below:—

(1) Niko resources Canada
(2) Shell India Production, Develop-ment B.V. Netherlands.
(3) Command Petroleum, Australia.
(4) Tullow Oil Pic, Ireland.
(5) Hardy Oil & Gas, U.K.
(6) Rawa Oil (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore.

Revision of Oil Production Target by ONGC

1981. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has revised the crude oil production target from 34.5 million tonnes to 30.5 million tonnes;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the deails of steps taken by Government to increase indigenous production of crude oil, especially from the oilwells in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) ONGC revised its projections of crude oil production from the level of 32.80 MMT to 31.092 MMT for the year 1996-97 due to the following reasons:—

— Reduction in anticipated production form the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in" conformity with earlier predictions.

— Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order prob-